



U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON

# Finance

SENATOR CHUCK GRASSLEY, OF IOWA - CHAIRMAN

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For Immediate Release

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## Grassley, Baucus Introduce Fuel Fraud Prevention Act

WASHINGTON -- Sen. Chuck Grassley, chairman of the Committee on Finance, and Sen. Max Baucus, ranking member, on Tuesday introduced the Fuel Fraud Prevention Act. Grassley's floor statement and the bill text follow.

Floor Statement of Senator Charles E. Grassley  
Fuel Fraud Prevention Act of 2003  
Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2003

Thank you, Mr. President. Today we introduce a bill to fight fuel tax fraud. I am not talking about just moving around a few numbers on a tax return. Today we will begin closing the loopholes that have created millions of gallons and billions of dollars of missing fuel and missing tax dollars. This problem not only robs the U.S. Treasury, it also robs the American taxpayer.

We rely on these tax dollars to fund not only the Highway Trust Fund, which is charged with constructing and maintaining our national transportation system, but this also robs money from our Airport Trust Fund.

In light of investigations completed since September 11<sup>th</sup>, the safety and soundness of maintaining our nation's transportation infrastructure is now more than ever of the utmost importance. These issues are not just tax fraud -- not only are we concerned with the tax loss, but where else is this money going -- is it being used to fund terrorism? We need to know where all of this fuel is going. What makes us think that if we cannot find the fuel to collect the tax, that we could find the fuel to stop the terrorist acts? A missing barge could hold ninety tanker truckloads of fuel; that's about \$500,000 in federal and state excise taxes left uncollected. It's also hundreds of thousands of gallons for which we cannot account. That cannot happen, and this bill should help our enforcement officers close the loopholes and collect the tax that builds our highways.